

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Conference on Accelerating Growth for Women Entrepreneurs

27<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> October 2025, EBRD London

**Submit papers by: 13 July 2025**

You are invited to submit a paper to the Research Conference on Accelerating Growth for Women Entrepreneurs in Developing Economies, jointly organized by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), IDB Invest, and Imperial College London. The conference aims to promote new research and evidence on entrepreneurship, with a focus on women-led small and medium-sized enterprises (WSMEs), start-ups, and micro-enterprises with growth potential. Papers using sex-disaggregated data are particularly encouraged.

In addition to academic sessions, the conference will provide a platform for academics, practitioners, and policymakers to network and discuss the application of research findings to project design and implementation. Policy-oriented sessions will strengthen the connection between research and policy, helping to generate new evidence and define key objectives and milestones for the future. Papers are welcome on the following (non-exhaustive) list of topics:

- Firm growth and job creation
- Access to finance
- Blended finance, digital finance, and fintech
- Business training and bundled services
- Access to markets and technology
- Enabling environment (policies, laws, regulations, norms)
- Systemic change and the importance of sex-disaggregated data on financing for SMEs
- Finance and entrepreneurship in conflict zones and natural disasters
- Entrepreneurship and time use in the care economy

The symposium will feature a **keynote address by Marianne Bertrand**, Chris P. Dialynas Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, Chicago Booth School of Business.

Accommodation expenses will be covered for speakers and discussants according to the rules of the CEPR.

**To submit a paper** (full papers only), please email Lucie Newman (newmanl@ebrd.com) with the subject line “3<sup>rd</sup> Accelerating Growth for Women Entrepreneurs Research Conference”. The conference will be held at EBRD Headquarters, 5 Bank St, London, E14 4BG, United Kingdom. The conference will begin at 9:00 am on October 27, 2025 and conclude at 5:00 pm on October 28. An invitation-only conference dinner will be held on October 27.

For more information on previous conferences, please visit [this website](#).

#### ORGANIZING AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

J. Michelle Brock (EBRD & Imperial College London)  
Ralph De Haas (EBRD & KU Leuven)  
Francesco Loiacono (EBRD & Imperial College London)  
Felicia Siegrist (We-Fi)  
Miriam Bruhn (World Bank)  
Sonia Plaza (World Bank)  
Diego Ubfal (World Bank)  
Patricia Yañez-Pagans (IDB Invest)  
Maria Paula Gerardino (IDB)

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Andreas Madestam (Stockholm University)  
Ramana Nanda (Imperial College London)  
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Silvia Prina (Northeastern University)  
Simon Quinn (Imperial College London, CEPR)  
Maddalena Ronchi (Kellogg School of Management)  
Karmeni Sharma (Imperial College London)